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May 4, 2004

Monte Mitchell, State Fire Supervisor  
MD DNR Forest Service  
580 Taylor Ave, E-1  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

TO: All Maryland Volunteer Fire Departments

ATTN: Officers / Grant Coordinator

SUBJECT: 2004 Forest Service Grant Application Package

The enclosed package includes important time dated grant application material for your fire department. Two separate grant applications are enclosed for the 2004 Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) grant and the 2004 State Fire Assistance (SFA) Dry Hydrant grant. Fire Departments may apply for one or both of the grants during the application period.

All available grant funds for this year will be distributed during this application period. Applications for grant funds must be received in the Maryland DNR Forest Service headquarters office no later than **June 30, 2004**. The Fire Department Federal Identification Number and the daytime telephone number of your grant coordinator must accompany your application.

If you have any questions with the application process, please feel free to contact your local Regional Fire Manager or myself at 410-260-8503.

Sincerely,

/s/Montgomery R. Mitchell

Monte R. Mitchell  
State Fire Supervisor

Enclosures: Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant Application  
SFA Dry Fire Hydrant Grant Application

MRM/

## 2004 Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) Grant Application

The Volunteer Fire Assistance Program is authorized in Section 10(b)3 of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 (PL 95-313, as amended by the Forest Stewardship Act of 1990 (PL 101-624)). This program authorizes expenditure of federal funding to prevent and suppress rural fires and enhancing protection capabilities by assisting rural communities with training, equipping and organizing fire departments. Populations of rural communities cannot exceed 10,000. Grant applications for funding should be focused to address wildland fire and wildland urban interface issues and needs for communities at risk from wildfire.

During this grant application period, the MD DNR Forest Service will be distributing funds from the Federal 2004 budget year. Total funding available for 50/50 match grant distribution this year will be \$81,455. A Department may submit one VFA grant application for a maximum grant award of \$3,000 (\$6,000 in qualifying expenses). Funds will be distributed on a 50% reimbursable basis for actual cost incurred by the Fire Department. All funds will be distributed through this grant application.

Key qualifying guidelines are:

- A single fire department serving a rural area or a rural community with a population of 10,000 or less is eligible (latest Census).
- Area fire departments (fire districts, first due area, etc.) may serve an aggregate population of greater than 10,000 as long as the service area of the fire department includes a rural area or a rural community having a population of 10,000 or less. The VFA funding must be used to benefit the rural population.
- Federal funds will reimburse up to 50 percent of the cost to the fire department after approval and certification that items have been received and paid for by the department (50/50 match grant).
- Complete VFA guide can be viewed at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/partners/vfa/help/guide.htm>.
- Grants will not be approved for medical, rescue, or HAZMAT equipment; capital construction projects; or vehicle purchase.

Some examples of acceptable grant projects:

- Wildland personal protective equipment, such as nomex coveralls
- Equipping and rehab of Federal Excess Property (FEPP)
- Equipping of brush units, such as skid units, portable pumps, fire hose, hand tools, etc
- Communications equipment, such as mobile or portable radios and pagers
- Other wildland fire equipping needs

Applications must be received by **June 30, 2004**. Your Department will be notified of the grant amount approved and earmarked for your Department by **AUGUST 11, 2004**. If your grant application is approved for funding; invoices or purchase orders and copies of checks used for payment must be dated between January 1, 2004 and October 30, 2004. Documentation to receive reimbursement must be submitted by **NOVEMBER 15, 2004**. Documentation received after this date will not be accepted and funds will be reallocated for other projects.

# Maryland DNR Forest Service

## Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) Grant Application

Volunteer Fire Department \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Street

City

State

Zip Code

County \_\_\_\_\_

Department Federal Identification Number \_\_\_\_\_

Total Project Cost \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Grant Amount Requested \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Request cannot exceed 50% of total project cost up to a maximum of \$3,000))

### The following questions will be used to rank your application:

1. Project Description: \_\_\_\_\_

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2. List items to be purchased and estimated cost:

Item	Cost
1	\$
2	\$
3	\$
4	\$
5	\$
6	\$
7	\$
8	\$
9	\$
10	\$

3. Is this project part of an overall County fire protection plan?      Yes      No
4. Current ISO Classification:      Rural      \_\_\_\_\_      Town      \_\_\_\_\_
5. Will this project upgrade your ISO Classification?      Yes      No
6. Does your fire department provide mutual aid protection?      Yes      No
7. County / Local funding for fire protection?      \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Do not include EMS, Rescue, or HAZMAT funding)
8. Did your Department receive VFA funds last year?      Yes      No  
If yes, amount received      \$ \_\_\_\_\_
9. Did your Department receive Rural Fire Assistance Funds From the US Fish & Wildlife Service or National Park Service last year?      Yes      No  
If yes, amount received      \$ \_\_\_\_\_
10. Has your Department utilized the Federal Excess Property (FEPP) Program?  
(Excess Military equipment on loan)      Yes      No
11. Has your Department received any wildland fire training?      Yes      No
12. Population of community / protection area?      \_\_\_\_\_
13. Does your Department protect a community of less than 10,000 within your protection area?      Yes      No
14. Does your Department receive assistance from the MD DNR Forest Service for rural fire protection?      Yes      No

The Fire Department / Grant Coordinator certifies that to the best of their knowledge and belief that information in this application is true and correct and the Department will comply with the Volunteer Fire Assistance guidelines if a grant is received.

Grant Coordinator      \_\_\_\_\_      \_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name      Signature

Daytime Contact Numbers \_\_\_\_\_

Optional email address \_\_\_\_\_

## 2004 SFA Dry Fire Hydrant Grant Application

In 2003, the MD DNR Forest Service received a State Fire Assistance (SFA) hazard mitigation grant from the USDA Forest Service for dry hydrant projects over a three-year period from 2003 - 2005. These funds are being made available to states as a result of the National Fire Plan funding. The goals of the SFA Dry Hydrant hazard mitigation grant are:

- Install 100 dry hydrants in communities at risk from wildfire as identified in the state fire assessment.
- Obtain GPS locations of the newly installed dry hydrants and existing dry hydrants that have been installed through other federal, state, or local programs.
- Produce maps of those hydrant locations on a county basis and distribute to local emergency management centers, fire departments, state, and federal partners.

In 2003, 21 fire departments submitted applications for funding of 42 dry fire hydrants. Of the applications received, 19 fire departments received grant awards for 32 new hydrant installations in ten counties. Since not all projects awarded were completed, remaining funds will be reallocated along with 2004 funding.

During this 2004 grant application period, the MD DNR Forest Service will be accepting applications for the installation of 50 new dry fire hydrants. **Two dry fire hydrants may be requested in the application. Maximum grant award will be \$1500 per hydrant and \$3,000 per Department.** Funds may be used for dry hydrant materials and installation and certification cost. Funds will be distributed on a 100% reimbursable basis for actual cost incurred by the Fire Department. The MD DNR Forest Service will be providing the 50% cost share requirement through other grant objective activities.

Dry Hydrant applications for grant funds must be received in the Maryland DNR Forest Service headquarters office no later than **June 30, 2004**. Your Department will be notified of the grant amount approved and earmarked for your Department by **August 11, 2004**.

If your grant application is approved, invoices or purchase orders and copies of checks used for payment must be dated between July 1, 2004 and March 30, 2005. Documentation to receive reimbursement must be submitted by **April 15, 2005**. Documentation received after this date will not be accepted and funds will be reallocated for other project in 2005.

Applications for this grant will be rated based upon the current State Fire Assessment project by the State Fire Management staff.

<p>Maryland DNR Forest Service SFA Dry Hydrant Grant Application</p>
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Volunteer Fire Department \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Street

City

State

Zip Code

County \_\_\_\_\_

Department Federal Identification Number \_\_\_\_\_

Grant Amount Requested \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Request cannot exceed \$1,500 per dry hydrant and \$3,000 per Department)

**The following questions will be used to rank your application:**

1. Dry Hydrant Location (Two sites may be requested)

1 \_\_\_\_\_  
2 \_\_\_\_\_

2. Current ISO Classification: Rural \_\_\_\_\_ Town \_\_\_\_\_

3. Will this project upgrade your ISO Classification? Yes No

The Fire Department / Grant Coordinator certifies that to the best of their knowledge and belief that information in this application is true and correct.

Grant Coordinator \_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name Signature

Daytime Contact Numbers \_\_\_\_\_

Optional email address \_\_\_\_\_

<p><b>DNR USE ONLY - Do not write in this section</b></p>
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Wildland Fire Assessment Project Rating:				Overall	_____
Hazard	Risk	Values		WUI	